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ple the questions are similar; but administrative expediency had influenced the company. And in this period a marked relaxation of stringent prohibition of private trade may have had some relation to the problems of the company. In general the concluding documents of this volume point directly to the coming struggle over the granting of the new charter to the company by Cromwell.

ALFRED L. P. DENNIS.

*Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington, Secretary of State to Charles II.*

By VIOLET BARBOUR, Instructor in History, Vassar College.

[Prize Essays of the American Historical Association, 1913.]

(Washington: American Historical Association; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1914. Pp. xii, 303.)

WITH the appearance of Miss Barbour's life of Arlington another link is added to the rapidly lengthening chain of Restoration biography which began so many years ago with Lister's classic *Life of Clarendon*, and has recently been so remarkably increased. There are, indeed, not many principal personages of that extraordinary period now without some sort of modern biography. Charles II., his wife, most of his mistresses, all of his chief ministers save two, Temple, L'Estrange, Ormonde, Argyll, Pepys, Mackenzie—the list is as long as it is miscellaneous. And if, in these contributions to Restoration history, two characteristics are noticeable above all others they are, first, that scarcely any other period in English affairs has proved such an attractive and fertile field for the production of biographical monographs; and, second, that it seems to have a peculiar fascination for that sex which played so great a part in its development.

To this collection Miss Barbour's volume is a welcome and valuable addition. If it cannot pretend to the bulk and exhaustiveness of Lady Burghclere's *Ormonde* it certainly surpasses that author's *Buckingham* both in method and content; and though it lacks the scope and interest of Mr. Christie's *Shaftesbury* in revolutionizing our ideas of its subject and period, it unquestionably adds much to our knowledge and something to our conception of one of the most elusive figures in Restoration politics.

That it does not add more is less the fault of the author than of her subject. Of all the leading personages in the reign of Charles II., it seems to be evident from these pages that Arlington will remain in history, as he was in life, one of the most difficult to evaluate properly in his relation to affairs and his permanent influence upon them. This is, no doubt, largely true because he was first of all a diplomat rather than a statesman, and it is never easy to adjudge the proper proportion of personal influence wielded by an intermediary. But, growing out of his profession, perhaps, there were certain qualities emphasized in Arlington's nature which make Miss Barbour's task doubly difficult. Despite her long and patient investigation, despite the many facts, both new and old, here brought together by her industry, despite her clear and syste-

matic presentation couched in a style fortunately far removed from so-called "thesis English", Arlington remains to us as to most of his contemporaries, a peculiarly unattractive, enigmatic factor in public affairs. As he began so he seems to have remained to the end, patient, unobtrusive, adroit, self-seeking, contributing but little of real light and leading to those great issues through which he moved so surely and inconspicuously toward wealth and power. A model courtier, a shrewd politician, a useful minister to a master like Charles II., he lacks even the principle of Danby, the picturesque quality of Buckingham, still more the fire of Shaftesbury. Half in, half out of either side, treading dangerous paths with marvellous security, he remains the peculiar product of a period in which, save for an ultimately futile foreign policy, his permanent influence for good was negligible.

Such is the final impression one receives of that minister-courtier-diplomat, who, save for the most sincere of his colleagues, Clifford, has hitherto received less attention than any member of the ill-fated Cabal. The general opinion of Arlington will probably be little changed by Miss Barbour's book. Its value lies in the details she has added to the knowledge of the tortuous politics of the period. Nowhere has Arlington's relation to the Triple Alliance been so clearly revealed, and though his connection with the true and false treaties of Dover has long been fairly well known, his change from "confident expectation of peace to passionate desire for it" and the "ill use" of the period succeeding the second Dutch War has never been so clearly recognized. Unfortunately it has, apparently, not been found possible to invade his refuge in collective ministerial responsibility for the acts preceding that struggle, and but little if any new light is thrown on the consequent impeachment and acquittal, where hung not merely the fate of Arlington and his colleagues, but the turning-point of Restoration politics. And if (not to exceed the limits set to the many questions and reflections which this volume inspires) it had been possible to discover the tracks which Arlington has evidently been only too successful in covering up, we should be able to clear up many problems in a perplexing period. Finally, apart from minor matters, it seems remarkable, in such a careful and exhaustive piece of work, that the author has not availed herself to a larger extent of some of the recent biographies and monographs which might have helped to illuminate the general field of Restoration politics and, by the reflected light, make Arlington's course at critical periods somewhat less obscure.

W. C. ABBOTT.

*Frederick the Great and Kaiser Joseph: an Episode of War and Diplomacy in the Eighteenth Century.* By HAROLD TEMPERLEY, Fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge. (London: Duckworth and Company. 1915. Pp. xvi, 273.)

CLAUSEWITZ used to maintain that, in war, more could be learned from a detailed study of a few operations than from a broad general account.